

shape to the product. Preferably the product is an automotive boot. As can be seen from Figures 3, 4 and 5 different products can be produced in different configurations from the same extruding and molding technique. The relationship between the molded products is shown in repeating patterns such as outlined in Claims 5 and 6.

The invention as described in this application is not taught by the prior art. The primary reference, Maroschak (the '025 patent) is concerned with obtaining a limited type of molded product. The product design as pointed out in column 8, lines 20 and following is to have corrugated plastic pipe that is used in septic tank fields to be available in lengths of approximately 10 feet or more. The product that is obtained in the Maroschak patent is to have only an AB configuration. A review of the mold that is utilized and described in FIG. 5 depicts the AB configuration that is formed. The coupling section 82 as shown in FIG. 8 demonstrates that it is to be physically coupled to another segment. There is no suggestion in the '025 patent that products obtained can have three different configurations. In addition, there is no suggestion that an automotive boot can be produced from the teachings of the '025 patent.

The Examiner recognizes this for the Examiner couples the '025 patent with the secondary reference Lupke ('398 patent). It is respectfully submitted that Lupke is not properly combinable with the '025 patent. There is no motivation for combining the references. Lupke produces a molded product that has the teeth 16 of FIGS. 2 and 3

Lupke

produced in the molded product per se. Lupke suggests combining an independent element 100 with molded element 112 as shown in FIG. 2. In a similar fashion, see that shown in FIG. 3, a sealing means such as 116 is used as the technique for joining the components as shown in FIG. 4. The '398 patent teaches away from what is desired in the present application. The present application is directed towards a boot having at least the three different geometric configurations as shown in the drawings that are described in the specification. Since the '025 patent and the '398 patent do not teach such a technique, other than a physical technique of combining the two components, it is not seen how they suggest the extruded molded product of the present invention.

The final reference Rosenbaum ('911 reference) is nothing more than a continuously produced product that can be cut into individual segments. The patent does not teach the preparation of three different geometries in an extruded molded product. Rather it indicates that one segment is reproduced and those segments are all the same and they are cut as desired. Again, there is no suggestion for combining the techniques in the '911 patent with any of the other references. The other references specifically indicate that if there is any combining to be done, it is to be done physically after the part is produced by the molding technique.

Applicant has added additional claims 21-26 which bring out the more salient

aspects of the invention. Claim 23 is a product by process claim. Claim 24 is directed towards the automotive boot which is prepared from an extruded plastic part that is subsequently molded into the boot form which has the segments A, B and C. Claims 25 and 26 are variations on Claim 24 in terms of the product that is produced in the final molded process.

Support for Claims 24-26 is throughout the specification and the claims and in particular the drawings such as FIGS. 3 and 4, page 4, lines 20 and following on over through page 5, line 10.

Applicant has amended the specification on page 8 to insert the terminology from original claim 15. Original claims are considered part of the original specification.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

In view of the above comments, it would appear the case is in condition for allowance and a Notification of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Schramm", written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

Insert at page 8, after line 22, insert the following:

As in the first embodiment, the process includes the steps of extruding a hollow tube of thermoplastic material; providing mold halves having surfaces with the formula $(A-B-C-C'-B-A)_{n+1}$; shaping a tube 12 of heat thermoplastic material against the aforesaid surfaces of the joined mold halves 50 (one shown in Figure 4); continuously feeding a molded tube 48 having ends and convolutions with the formula $(A-B-C-C'-B-A)_n$ from the corrugator 20; passing the molded tube 48 through a cooling tank and a dryer then cutting the molded tube 28 between the segments C-C' to form separated elastic convoluted parts of either the same or differing end connection configurations. Another embodiment is wherein the mold has all configured with differing geometries and wherein the continuous molded extrusion has a repeating pattern A-B-C-C-B-A-A-B-C-C-B-A defined by the expression $(A-B-C-C-B-A)_n$.

In the claims:

Claims 1, 5, 11 and 14 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for continuously forming molded parts ~~includes comprising~~ providing an extruder; directing a hollow column of plastic material from said extruder; providing a plurality of die blocks defining mold halves including planar end segments having differing geometry and joined by intermediate convoluted segments; continuously moving such die blocks for receiving and forming the hollow column into a continuous shape having spaced end segments and intermediate convoluted segments and advancing the shaped column of plastic material from the continuously moving die blocks; providing a cutter; synchronizing the cutter action to the movement of the shaped column for separating the end segments to form one or more parts having planar end segments of ~~the same or~~ differing geometry in each part ~~or with differing geometry from part to part.~~

5. (Amended) The process of claim 1 ~~wherein the mold halves are configured with identical geometry and~~ wherein a continuous molded extrusion shape is passed from the moveable mold blocks having a repeating pattern A-B-C-A-B-C defined by the expression $(A-B-C)_n$.

11. (Amended) The process of claim 3 ~~wherein the mold halves are configured with identical geometry and~~ wherein a continuous molded extrusion shape is passed from the moveable mold blocks having a repeating pattern A-B-C-A-B-C defined by the expression $(A-B-C)_n$.

14. (Amended) The process of claim 4 ~~wherein the mold halves are configured with identical geometry and~~ wherein a continuous molded extrusion shape is passed from the moveable mold blocks having a repeating pattern A-B-C-A-B-C defined by the expression $(A-B-C)_n$.